

Definition and approaches in Social Geography: different schools of thought

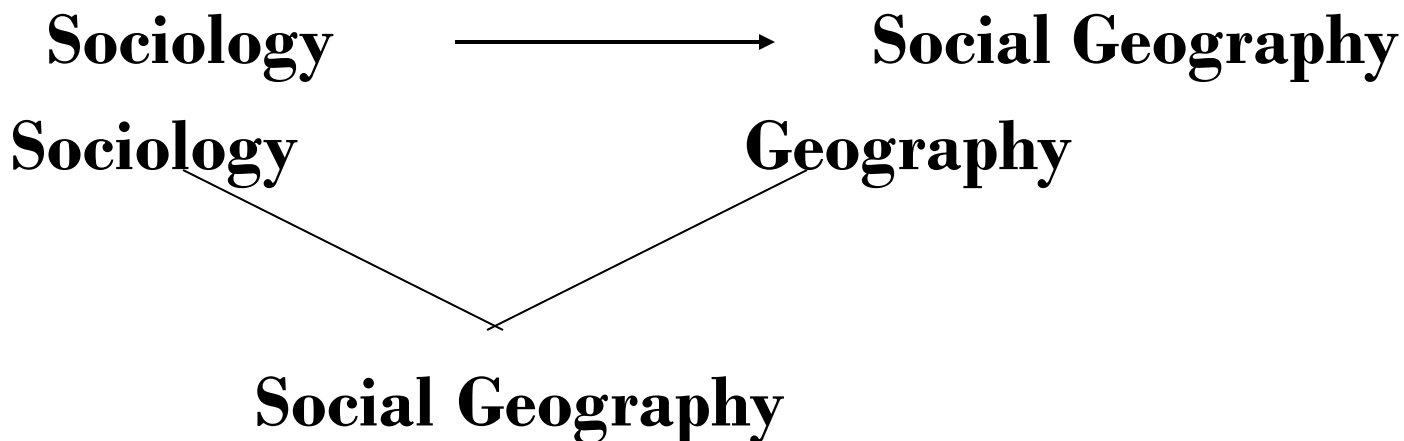
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- **Geography is divided into:**

1) Physical Geography

2) Human Geography

- **Geography is a science of synthesis**



- **Social Geography is concerned with man and how he lives: with the geography of population and settlement; with the forms and processes of social interaction in space; and with the cultural attitudes that produce landscapes and affect ways of life. It is the logical expression of the interaction between sociology and geography as it studies social phenomena in spatial context.**

Definitions of Social Geography

- **According to Eyles (1974), “the analysis of the social patterns and processes arising from the distribution of and access to, scarce resources and ... an examination of the societal causes of, and suggested solutions to, social and environmental problems.”**
- **According to Buttimer (1968), “the study of the areal (spatial) patterns and functional relations of social groups in the context of their social environment, the internal structure and external relations of the nodes of social activity, and the articulation of various channels of social communication”**

Definitions of Social Geography

- **Watson's definition of social geography is "the identification of different regions of the earth's surface according to the associations of social phenomena related to the total environment"**
- **Fitzgerald social geography was concerned "with spatial arrangements or patterns over the world of phenomena which are social, as distinct from political or economic significance to man"**

Development and Nature of Social Geography

- **Social Geography up to 1945 was concerned with the whole framework of human interaction with the environment leading to the articulation of social space by diverse human groups in different ways.**
- **During the twenties and thirties of the twentieth century, social geography was concerned with the study of population as organized in settlements particularly urban. Socio-geographical studies of population distribution and ethnic composition in urban areas emerged as a major trend during this phase and continued till the fifties of the twentieth century.**

Development and Nature of Social Geography

- **After the quantitative revolution in geography, social geographers started employing area-specific data in order to discover spatial patterns. Social area analysis emerged as a major tool of analysis.**
- **Social relevance movement in the contemporary social sciences affected geography and issues such as race, crime, health and poverty received increased attention.**

Different Schools of Thought

- **Social Geography since 1960 has taken three main paths each acquiring the status of a school of thought**
- **A Welfare or Humanistic School**
- **A Radical School**
- **A Phenomenological School**